

They don't want to live in a country where it is more politically expedient to bar doorways at schools, rather than ban assault weapons. They are calling for lawmakers to stand up and do what is right: to close loopholes in our gun laws and decisively take steps so they feel safe in their schools, their churches, and their communities.

Their sentiment is captured powerfully in an article I would like to share, that was written by Glennon Doyle Melton, an author and mother of three children.

"Two weeks ago, my second and fourth grade daughters came home from school and told me that they'd had a code red drill... In case someone tries to kill us. We had to all hide in the bathroom together and be really quiet. It was really scary but the teacher said if there was a real man with a gun trying to find us, she'd cover us up and protect us from him. Tommy started crying. I tried to be brave."

She continued: "My three-year-old nephew had the same drill at his preschool in Virginia. Three-year-old American babies and teachers—hiding in bathrooms, holding hands, preparing for death. We are saying to teachers: arm yourselves and fight men with assault weapons because we are too cowardly to fight the gun lobby."

"We are saying to a terrified generation of American children—We will not do what it takes to protect you. We will not even try. So just be very quiet, hide and wait. Hold your breath. Shhh."

By failing to act, year after year, these children all across our country are being forced to live in fear and have these kinds of "trainings."

We are asking our teachers to not focus on teaching math and English, but to wield weapons and fight off those armed to the teeth with military-style weapons. That can't be the solution.

We can no longer remain silent. We can no longer do nothing. We must stand up and fight. Our children and the generations to come demand it. I hope we will finally take action and pass these commonsense bills.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SEEDS OF PEACE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, in 1993, American journalist and author John Wallach hosted a dinner with leaders from Israel, Egypt, and the Palestinian Authority. As he toasted his guests, he urged each country to send 15 youngsters to a new summer camp he had established in Otisfield, ME. That year, 46 teens, ages 13 to 18, and including three Americans, comprised the first class of the Seeds of Peace Camp.

Twenty-five years later, Seeds of Peace now has 6,698 alumni throughout the Middle East, South Asia, Europe, and the United States. They came to Maine from 27 countries, many from places of conflict, for 3 weeks of camp-

ing and social activities to promote understanding, reconciliation, acceptance, dialogue, coexistence, and peace. They returned home uniquely positioned to lead change and with the courage to dispel the fear, mistrust, and prejudice that fuel conflict.

It is a pleasure to congratulate this remarkable organization on its landmark 25th anniversary. Seeds of Peace is able to bridge borders and foster peace in the midst of longstanding global conflicts. Many of those early campers are now holding decision-making positions in their home countries, and I believe that the "seeds of peace" that were planted during their time in Maine will blossom into lasting, visionary solutions to conflicts perpetuated by cycles of violence.

Building on the success of the international program, Seeds of Peace launched the Maine Seeds leadership program in 2000 in response to the changing demographics in our State resulting from a growing refugee population. These Maine Seeds organize year-round community and school activities that bridge divisions and create positive change.

Seeds of Peace reveals the human face of youth who are too often exposed to hatred by engaging campers in both guided coexistence sessions and ordinary summer camp activities, such as sharing meals, canoeing, swimming, playing sports, and exploring creativity through the arts and computers. These interactions and the lasting friendships formed are creating new generations of leaders who will choose dialogue and understanding over violence and hatred.

In addition to the summer camp in Maine, Seeds of Peace provides year-round opportunities, through regional programming and the innovative use of technology, to enable former participants to build on the relationships forged at camp, so that the learning processes begun at camp may continue in the participants' home countries, where they are most needed.

Seeds of Peace is strongly supported by participating governments and many world leaders. Federal funding for Seeds of Peace demonstrates and recognizes the importance of Seeds of Peace in promoting the foreign policy goals of the United States.

The Seeds of Peace mission—to inspire and cultivate new generations of leaders to accelerate the social, economic, and political changes essential for peace—is more essential than ever before. From a small summer camp in Maine a quarter of a century ago to a global movement today, Seeds of Peace has carried out that vital mission and brought new hope to the world.

YEAR OF THE HAWAIIAN

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, last weekend, we gathered in the Capitol Visitor Center to celebrate the 283rd birthday of King Kamehameha I, who, to the best of our knowledge, was born in Kohala, HI, in 1735.

Since 1871, generations of Hawaiians have formally celebrated King Kamehameha's birthday through annual celebrations—including floral parades and lei-draping ceremonies. Kamehameha Day is celebrated across the State and is an acknowledged State holiday.

These events recognize the many accomplishments of Hawaii's first King and his importance in unifying the Hawaiian Islands.

This year was no different, as this past weekend tens of thousands of individuals gathered in Washington, DC, and Hawaii to remember his legacy and celebrate his accomplishments.

However, this year's ceremonies came at another important time of reflection.

On February 17, 2018, Gov. David Ige proclaimed 2018 to be the "Year of the Hawaiian, Ke Au Hawaii" in Hawaii. The Governor's proclamation came after the Hawaii State Legislature made a similar proclamation for the year.

So as we gathered to remember King Kamehameha, we also reflected more broadly on the achievements and contributions of Hawaii's indigenous, Native Hawaiian community in the areas of politics and government, education and the arts, music, writing and literature, sports, business, medicine, law, and social work.

We reflected on the restoration and revitalization of Native Hawaiian language and traditions and the importance of promoting Native Hawaiian cultural practices.

We remembered great statesmen like Daniel Kahikina Akaka, U.S. Senator of Native Hawaiian ancestry, who served in Congress over the course of five decades and recently passed away.

We remembered philanthropists like Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop.

It has been 30 years since the last Year of the Hawaiian was celebrated in 1988, and important advancements by and for the Native Hawaiian community have been made since that time.

We have seen the creation and expansion of Native Hawaiian immersion schools and Hawaiian-focused charter schools. We have seen the establishment of a College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawaii. We have seen the continued revitalization of Native Hawaiian navigation practices, including through the Malama Honua Worldwide Voyage, which visited more than 150 ports and 23 countries and territories.

We have seen more than 14,000 Native Hawaiians serve in the U.S. military. We have seen the return of land and repatriation of Native Hawaiian cultural artifacts. We have seen the protection of Native Hawaiian burial sites. We have seen the expansion of Native Hawaiian healthcare services. We have seen the expansion of opportunities for Native Hawaiian businesses.

We have also seen the Federal Government reiterate its special political and legal relationship with the Hawaiian people based on their unique status